<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system for electronic media distribution, the system comprising:

means for generating a plurality of media items;

a data repository for storing a respective metadata item corresponding to multiple media items, each metadata item containing metadata relating to the generation of the corresponding media item;

means for electronically distributing at least some of the media items to a plurality of end-users <u>separate from any respective metadata item</u>;

means for detecting reception by the end-users of the media items; and

means for associating, with each metadata item relating to an electronically distributed media item, a reception indicator indicative of the number of users receiving that media item~~, the reception indicator incremented by one for each user who receives each media item, the reception indicator not being decremented, and the reception indicator not having a limit~~.

Claim 2 (Original): A system according to claim 1, in which the metadata item contains at least metadata relating to the planning or commissioning of the media item.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, in which the media items include audio and video items.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, comprising means for associating a material identifying code with each media item for electronic distribution.

Claim 5 (Original): A system according to claim 4, comprising means for receiving the material identifying codes of media items received by end-users.

Claim 6 (Original): A system according to claim 5, in which the receiving means comprises a modem link to the end users' receiving apparatus.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A system for electronic media distribution, the system comprising:

means for generating a plurality of media items;

a data repository for storing a respective metadata item corresponding to multiple media items, each metadata item containing metadata relating to copyright and/or ownership of the corresponding media item;

means for electronically distributing at least some of the media items to a plurality of end-users separate from any respective metadata item;

means for detecting the copyright and/or ownership metadata relating to media items actually distributed to end-users; and

means for analyzing the media items actually distributed to end users to determine the content of the media items and generating payment information indicative of a required payment to the holder of rights defined by the copyright and/or ownership metadata based on a determination by the means for analyzing, the means for analyzing incrementing a reception indicator by one for each user who receives each media item, the means for analyzing not decrementing the reception indicator, and the means for analyzing not limiting the reception indicator.

Claim 8 (Original): A system according to claim 7, in which the data repository is a database.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 7, in which the media items include audio and video media items.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 7, comprising means for associating a material identifying code with each generated media item, the material identifying code being mapped, in the data repository, to the copyright and/or ownership metadata.

Claim 11 (Original): A system according to claim 10, in which the detecting means is operable to detect the material identifying code associated with media items to be distributed.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of electronic media distribution comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of media items;

storing a respective metadata item corresponding to multiple media items, each metadata item containing metadata relating to the generation of the corresponding media item;

electronically distributing at least some of the media items to a plurality of end-users separate from any respective metadata item;

detecting reception by the end-users of the media items; and

associating, with each metadata item relating to an electronically distributed media item, a reception indicator indicative of the number of users receiving that media item, the

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~~reception indicator incremented by one for each user who receives each media item, the~~

~~reception indicator not being decremented, and the reception indicator not having a limit~~.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of electronic media distribution comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of media items;

storing a respective metadata item corresponding to multiple media items, each metadata item containing metadata relating to copyright and/or ownership of the corresponding media item;

electronically distributing at least some of the media items to a plurality of end-users separate from any respective metadata item;

detecting the copyright and/or ownership metadata relating to media items actually distributed to end-users;

analyzing the media items actually distributed to end users to determine the content of the media items~~, the analyzing including incrementing a reception indicator by one for each user who receives each media item, the reception indicator not being decremented, and the reception indicator not having a limit~~; and

generating payment information indicative of a required payment to the holder of rights defined by the copyright and/or ownership metadata based on the analyzing.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with program code for carrying out a method according to claim 12.

Claim 16 (Original): A medium by which software according to claim 15 is stored or transmitted.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with program code for carrying out the method of claim 13.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A medium by which software of claim 15 is stored or transmitted.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for logging a distribution time with a transport identifier for a transmitted media item.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for viewing figures generated at an analysis stage and associated with a metadata item.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for assigning different material identifying codes for different versions of a media item at a time the media item is distributed.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for associating metadata items with each material identifying code recorded for each distributed version of a media item and saving the metadata items with each material identifying code in the data repository.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for monitoring a final version of a distributed media item and subsequently modifying the material identifying code at distribution to include a form in which program is distributed.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A system for electronic media distribution comprising:

a media generator configured to generate a plurality of media items;

a data repository for storing a respective metadata item corresponding to multiple media items, each metadata item containing metadata relating to the generation of the corresponding media item;

a transmitter configured to distribute at least some of the media items to a plurality of end-users separate from any respective metadata item;

a detector configured to detect reception by the end-users of the media items; and

an association unit configured to associate a reception indicator indicative of the number of users receiving that media item with each metadata item of the corresponding media item, the reception indicator incremented by one for each user who receives each

~~media item, the reception indicator not being decremented, and the reception indicator not having a limit~~.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 25, in which the metadata item contains at least metadata relating to the planning or commissioning of the media item.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 25, in which the media items include audio and video items.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 25, comprising an association unit configured to associate a material identifying code with each media item for electronic distribution.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 28, comprising a receiver configured to receive the material identifying codes of media items received by end-users.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 29, in which the receiver comprises a modem link to the end users' receiving apparatus.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 25, further comprising:

a logging unit configured to log a distribution time with a transport identifier for a transmitted media item.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 25, further comprising:

a display configured to display figures generated at an analysis stage and associated with a metadata item.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 28, further comprising:

an assignment unit configured to assign different material identifying codes for different versions of a media item at a time the media item is distributed.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 28, further comprising:

an association unit configured to associate metadata items with each material identifying code recorded for each distributed version of a media item and saving the metadata items with each material identifying code in the data repository.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 28, further comprising:

a monitor configured to monitor a final version of a distributed media item and subsequently modifying the material identifying code at distribution to include a form in which program is distributed.

Claim 36 (New): A system according to claim 1, wherein the multiple media items are separable and independent from each other, the distributed media items form a distributed

work, and correspondence between said metadata item and corresponding media items are

updated based on which media items were distributed as the distributed work.